

# CENSUS CounterParts

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## Commerce Secretary Mineta Visits Census Bureau Headquarters

Janet Wooding (PIO)

On his first visit to the Census Bureau as the newly appointed secretary of commerce, Norman Mineta quickly put employees at ease as he skipped up the stairs to the auditorium stage to the sounds of pianist Jeff Hayes' rendition of "The Entertainer."

At this August 7 event, Mineta was introduced by Under Secretary of Commerce Robert Shapiro. As the first person to join the Cabinet in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Mineta said he was very proud to hold this position, even for a six-month period, because "six months in a new economy is a virtual eternity." He felt "very fortunate to assume this post as secretary of commerce, coming in at a remarkable time of prosperity," he said, and asked for the continued help of census employees "in supplying the information that businesses and policy-makers need in order to keep these good times rolling."

It is Mineta's hope that in the next six months, he will be able to help the Census Bureau make advances on a number of fronts, including the economic census, poverty estimates, current survey work, foreign trade data and developing new



*Commerce Secretary Mineta greets employees.*

measures of the exploding digital economy. He said he knows the Census Bureau has great expectations for the American Community Survey.

"When it is up and running, it will be the greatest event in demographic survey research in half a century, and it will give us more timely information and be less onerous than the long form for people to fill out. That is what I call good government," said Mineta. He pledged to do whatever he could to make sure the Census Bureau will have an adequate budget and a safe place to work.

Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt welcomed Secretary Mineta and then offered possible connections of census data

*—continued on page 5.*

## American Statistical Association Elects Three Census Bureau Fellows

On September 19 in the Morris Hansen Auditorium, John H. Thompson, associate director for Decennial Census; Preston J. Waite, assistant director for Decennial Census; and Nancy M. Gordon, associate director for Demographic Programs, were honored as newly-elected fellows of the American Statistical Association (ASA).

Cynthia Z.F. Clark, associate director for Methodology and Standards, noted that the number of fellows each year is limited to one-third of 1 percent of active members of ASA and is one of the top professional honors a statistician can receive. The three Census Bureau fellows were among 55 individuals recognized at ASA's 160<sup>th</sup> meeting in August.

"I feel that it is particularly important that statisticians who are leaders, executives and managers at the Census Bureau were so honored," said Clark.

John Thompson was nominated by Carnegie Mellon professor Steve Feinberg. His citation reads: "For unusual vision and strategic thinking in planning the 2000 Census; for leadership in conducting the census; for building

partnerships with minority communities in the search for a more inclusive census; and for a steadfast commitment to excellence and professional standards."



L. to r. Preston J. Waite, John H. Thompson, Nancy M. Gordon

Howard Hogan, chief, Decennial Statistical Studies Division, spoke of Thompson's vision and courage in planning Census 2000 and drew laughs when he said, "Now we really shouldn't hold it against him that the Supreme Court said that everything he did was illegal. They did go on to say that he didn't violate anyone's constitutional rights and we're thankful for that." He praised Thompson's management style and statistical abilities and credited the

team of Thompson and Waite for the success of Census 2000.

Preston J. Waite was nominated by former Census Bureau director, Martha Riche. His citation reads: "For leadership in designing surveys to meet the informational needs of national policy and for excellence in developing and managing statistical surveys and Census 2000." Waite's career has spanned demographic, economic and decennial program areas.

—continued on page 5.

## And the Winner Is — Ugly!

*Profile America*, the Census Bureau's radio service, provides 60-second features for each weekday of the month to hundreds of radio stations across the country, highlighting data from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and other Census Bureau publications. Here is the script for Oct. 27:

Some strange-looking vehicles are converging on the town of Chadron, Neb., for this weekend's annual Ugly Pickup Parade and Contest.

The purpose of this event is to select the ugliest pickup truck in the United States. Contestants come from as far away as Alaska. All entries must be in running condition and arguments about ugliness will be settled by the chairman of the Ugly Truck Certification Committee.

The event will even select a beauty queen. The winner will wear a victory sash made from an inner tube.

In America today, some 70 million trucks are on the road. About 19 million are at least 12 years old — meaning there's a lot of candidates for next year's event in Chadron.

For more information on *Profile America*, contact Rick Reed (PIO) on 301-457-2812. ♦

## Experts Speak Out on Voice of America Broadcast

On August 29, Edison Gore, assistant division chief for Field Programs in the Decennial Management Division, and Ward Kingkade of the International Program Center (IPC), participated in a *Voice of America* radio broadcast that gave Russian citizens from the 15 former Soviet Union republics the opportunity to ask questions about our decennial census.

The live hour-long show began with a short news broadcast and then proceeded with a rather complicated set of instructions for the callers who had to use different phone numbers, depending on where they were calling from.

Censuses in the former Soviet Union were conducted door-to-door and since there is no constitutional mandate for a census, they are legally underwritten by "presidential edict." Each former Soviet republic has conducted or will conduct their census independently, for the first time.



*Ed Gore and Ward Kingkade field questions from Russian citizens during a Voice of America broadcast.*

Questions were asked about data collection, processing and dissemination, response rates, accuracy and confidentiality, demographic trends and analytical techniques. There also was interest in how prisoners and patients in hospitals and mental institutions are counted.

Some questions were on the "lighter side." A former enumerator wanted to know what would happen if a respondent put down "thief" for occupation. Would the Census Bureau release such information to the local police? Another caller wanted to know, based on the census, the percentages of blondes and brunettes in the country.

"In general, these questions were not unlike the type of questions I get from people in this country about the

—continued on page 7.

## Interns Visit Baltimore's Data Capture Center

Heidi A. Walton (DCPO)

At 8:30 a.m. on July 11, 25 Department of Commerce (DOC) interns boarded a bus to the Baltimore Census 2000 Data Capture Center (DCC) located in Essex, Md., the site of the Computer Sciences Corporation operated DCC and one of the three contracted DCCs processing data from Census 2000. The other DCC locations are Phoenix, Ariz., run by the National Computer Sciences Corporation; Pomona, Calif., run by DynCorp; and the National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, Ind.

Although a larger group was expected, the 25 who attended seemed glad they did. Their visit began with a brief introduction to the Census Bureau and continued with a description of how the decennial program is designed and the specific activities of the Data Capture Program and the Baltimore DCC. Afterwards, guests toured the more than 258,000 square-foot facility to experience "A Day in the Life of a Census Form."

Based on the questions asked and feedback received, we believe their visit was enjoyable and worthwhile.

Editor's note: The Data Capture Program Office would like to thank the DOC and its interns for their interest in our program and for the opportunity to provide a "show-'n-tell" of data capture. We believe educating and informing is our best way to prepare for future successful censuses! ♦



# Hispanic Heritage Month 2000 — Our Hope for the Future

September 15 — October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month activities end on Oct. 18 with a reception and panel discussion hosted by Gloria Gutierrez, assistant director for Marketing and Customer Liaison, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Hollerith and Gannett

conference rooms. Five Latino executives will share their experiences at the Census Bureau and participate in a Q&A discussion about their careers, how they got where they are now and how other Latinos can follow their example. ❖

## October Is Disability Awareness Month

Disabilities Affect Over One-Fifth of All Americans

Disability Awareness Month Committee

There are more than 50 million people with disabilities in the Unites States, with impairments such as blindness, deafness, diabetes and mental illness that limit major life activities. The Census Bureau has been a forerunner in hiring and accommodating people with disabilities. Its program at the National Processing Center in Jeffersonville has won national recognition.

Officially called “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” (NDEAM), it predates the “Americans with Disabilities Act” by nearly a half century. In 1945, Public Law 176 designated the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1947, President Harry Truman appointed members to the President’s Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week and directed the Committee to carry out this act. In 1962, the word

“physically” was removed by President John F. Kennedy to become the “President’s Committee on Employment of the Handicapped;” and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan changed the name to the “President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.” That same year, Congress expanded the week to a month, and it became NDEAM.

The following activities are planned for the month of October:

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
All month		Census Library	Reading materials and videos.
October 4	11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	FOB-3 Gazebo	Kickoff of activities. Ice cream, prizes, pamphlets and much more.
October 11	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	FOB-3 Gazebo	Walk-A-Thon. Prizes for all who participate. Stretching exercises conducted by CWET Shop counselors. Melwood plant sale. Display by the Health Unit.
October 19	2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Rm. 1637-3	Workshop on disability awareness with Luis Szyfres, M.D., MPH, Department of Health, Washington, D.C.
October 25	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	FOB-3 Auditorium	Closing events with keynote speaker Mary Lamielle, member of the “President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities” and executive director of the National Center for Environmental Health Strategies.
	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Tauber Conf. Room	Reception/refreshments.
October 26	2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.	FOB-3 Auditorium	Workshop on Disability Awareness. ❖

*Commerce Secretary Mineta visits Census Bureau headquarters—continued from page 1.*

to Mineta's life and career: the 1950 census, when Mineta was taking business courses at UC-Berkeley with curriculum materials based upon the census of manufacturing; later, census data about business patterns may have been helpful to Mineta when he was a partner in his father's small San José insurance brokerage; and district boundaries may have been drawn or redrawn from data results of censuses overlapping Mineta's career in local government when he served as a member of the city council and mayor of San José, Calif.

Prewitt noted that many people in the room were directly associated with Mineta's years of service in the House of Representatives, and employees working on data confidentiality and issues of the ethical uses of census data were stimulated, in part, by Mineta's role in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Prewitt concluded by saying that there were those in the room that were involved with Mineta's career even after he left the

federal government, employees "who have worked very hard with the private sector, including Lockheed Martin where Mineta once served as senior vice president, who made Census 2000 the most technologically advanced census ever."

Mineta concluded by sharing his experience of the internment of him and his family along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans during World War II. "In many ways, that experience has been at the core of the reasons that I became involved in government. ... Fifty-eight years ago when my family and I were taken from my home, viewed by our own government as enemy aliens, who

could have imagined that it would be possible for me to be standing here today as a member of the President's Cabinet? Probably not many people could, but I can think of no higher creed for this great nation than to say, 'In America, it is possible to get from there to here.' I can think of no greater message of hope for our future." ♦



*Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta addresses Census Bureau employees.*

*American Statistical Association elects three Census Bureau fellows—continued from page 2.*

Charles Pautler, chief, Economic Statistical Methods and Programming Division, noted that Waite has "received just about all the awards that we can offer. His nomination was supported by several distinguished people, including the former president of ASA and the chief statistician of the United States. "I read all the nominating materials for this award," said Pautler and my favorite was "he is especially talented in demystifying the application of statistical science to those who view our profession as magic at best or witchcraft at worst." Having worked with Waite for over 17 years, Pautler said, "Never have I found him at a loss for the appropriate, correct or sensitive word ... Jay represents all of us in a way that makes him not only greatly deserving as an ASA

fellow, but also in a way that I think makes us all proud to work at the Census Bureau."

Nancy Gordon was nominated by former commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Janet Norwood. Her citation reads: "For leadership of the Census Bureau's demographic programs and the application of statistics and micro-simulation to examine policy and legislation in a balanced, nonpartisan manner."

Alan Tupek, chief, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, spoke of Gordon's innovation and persistence. "She's always looking for the best way to get things done . . . and as many of you know, Nancy never gives up. She recognizes innovations and is willing to push them along. This is certainly true of the American Community

Survey that began before her time, but she embraced it as revolutionary and had the leadership to advance it."

The importance of communication was illustrated by the fact that Gordon has not one, but two phones in her car, both of which may be ringing at the same time. Pautler described Gordon as a "closet math stat," the result of enough credits in statistics to qualify as a statistician. "She certainly is well-deserving of being a fellow of ASA," concluded Pautler.

Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt closed the ceremony on a personal note by recognizing that all three honorees are "good teachers" and, "I have been blessed by how much time and effort they have spent in educating me over the years." ♦



## Career Corner

### What's Next For You After the Decennial Census?

Rebecca Garza Dunn (Career Resource Center)

As a headquarter's term employee or an employee on a temporary promotion or detail assignment, you may be anticipating the completion of your assignment and thinking about what happens next.

You may also be asking yourself: Can a term employee be converted to a permanent appointment? Do I have reinstatement rights? What kind of positions is the Census Bureau recruiting for? What will happen to my leave, retirement and health benefits when my term appointment is over?

Several services are available to help you search for new opportunities both inside and outside the Census Bureau. One is the newly created intranet site at [cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd](http://cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd). Click on Workforce Transition. The site provides updates as the decennial census winds down, tips on how to apply for a permanent appointment and frequently asked questions. It

also offers an opportunity to submit your opinions, concerns and questions. The site will be updated regularly.

Another service is the Commerce Opportunities On-Line (COOL) system. COOL is an automated, Web-based vacancy announcement and application system. It provides a convenient way to search for jobs online. You can create, update, save and submit your application for merit vacancies. COOL should be used by anyone interested in applying for merit vacancies at the Census Bureau or any other participating Commerce Department agency. Access COOL at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Click on Jobs@Census. It also can be accessed through the intranet at [cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd](http://cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd). Click on COOL.

The Career Resource Center, located in Room G-288, Building 3, offers a full array of career services. Books

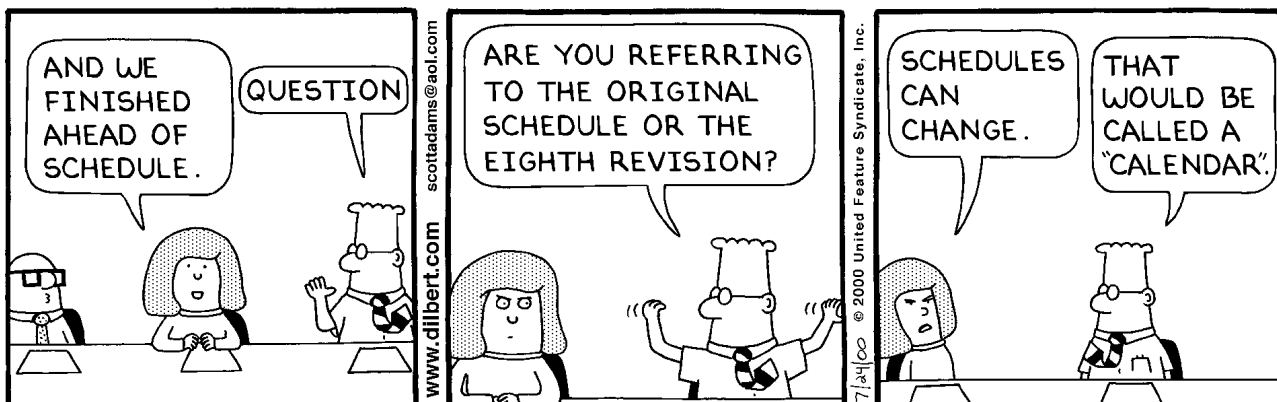
are available for checkout on career planning, job search, resume writing, preparing an effective federal job application, interviewing techniques and salary negotiation.

Computers are available with software for completing the OF-612 and SF-171 forms and preparing resumes. The center will again be offering workshops on job search, preparing an effective job application, responding to quality ranking factors and interviewing techniques. A career counselor is also available to help with applications, resumes and interviewing techniques. For more information, check the center's intranet pages at [cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd/crc/resource.htm](http://cww.hrd.census.gov/hrd/crc/resource.htm) or call 301-457-2508.

Be on the lookout for the upcoming "T-n-T" logo (Term-n-Temporary Promotion Employees) for more information on job services and workshops. ♦

## Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



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## Carl Sandburg Takes On the Census

*(While shipping large quantities of training materials to some local census offices one evening, I overheard one of my Field Division co-workers murmur, "Shipping Clerk to the World." He was adapting for the census part of Carl Sandburg's heroic poem, "Chicago," which proudly begins: "Hog Butcher for the World ..." I wondered what else Sandburg would write about the census.)*

Shipping Clerk to the World,  
Box Stacker, Chart Maker,  
Guardian of Stories and the Nation's Biographer;  
Determined, husky, knowing,  
Barrio of the Big Shoulders:

They tell me you are rough-hewn and I believe them, for I  
have seen your politics and procedures.

And they tell me you are harsh and my reply is: in the  
voices of civil servants I have heard the strain of conflict and solitude.

And having answered so, I turn to those who  
doubt my Suitland Center, and I give them back the doubt and say to them:

Show me another civilian operation with head-down counting,  
so vast and resilient.  
Flinging electronic orders amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a  
bold, relentless slugger set vivid against the soft agencies.

Intent as a hunter in pursuit of food,  
Planning,  
Tallying,  
Meeting,

Carrying the terrible burden of responsibility, laughing as a  
mother laughs,  
Laughing and watching the steady count from reveille to star-  
light,  
Laughing and calculating the pulse beat and heartbeat of the  
people,  
Laughing!

Laughing the knowing, husky laughter of youth, determined,  
exultant, sworn to be  
Shipping Clerk, Box Stacker, Chart Maker,  
Guardian of Stories: Photographer for the Nation.

*Caleb Kriesberg (FLD) ♦*

*Experts speak out on Voice of America  
broadcast—continued from page 3.*

census and census processes," said Gore. "The unique aspect about this broadcast was that the questions were being asked in an open forum by people who, until a few years ago, had been in a very closed society."

Kingkade served as interpreter and Gore answered the questions, with the exception of a question on the Census Bureau's international collaboration fielded by Kingkade. It was a perfect match. Gore has been at the Census Bureau for 26 years and involved with decennial programs since 1985. For census 2000, he worked with participating divisions to define program requirements.

Kingkade has been a statistician in IPC for 17 years and is fluent in Russian. He specializes in the analysis of the populations and labor forces of the countries of the former Soviet Union. He has conducted workshops on census planning and methodology for the heads of the statistical agencies in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow, Kiev and Berlin and spent 15 months in Armenia as resident advisor to the Statistics Ministry helping prepare for the population census. ♦

# Employee Express

Employee Express is an innovative automated system developed and maintained by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which empowers federal employees to initiate the processing of discretionary personnel-payroll transactions themselves electronically.

## *Why use Employee Express?*

### *Saves time!*

Employee Express eliminates the need for completing and submitting forms by replacing them with easy-to-use technology.

### *Convenient!*

You can access Employee Express anytime — 24-hours a day, seven

days a week — to process changes or review current information.

### *Reliable!*

Employee Express has enhanced procedural checks on accuracy not available with paper forms.

## *How is Employee Express accessed?*

Via any touch-tone phone:

From work: 912-757-3083 or  
From home: Toll-free 1-800-827-6281  
or TTY/TDD: 912-757-3117 or  
1-888-880-0412

Employee Express Web site: <<http://www.employeeexpress.gov>>

## *What transactions can be performed?*

You can process most changes to your federal and state tax withholding forms, direct deposit and financial allotment instructions and address information. In addition, you can initiate, change or stop payroll deductions to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds.

During the open season, employees can make changes to their health benefits through Employee Express, including enrolling in a health plan or changing their plan. Outside the open season, employees can change from family to self coverage with your present carrier or cancel enrollment.

During a Thrift Savings Plan open season, you may initiate withholding, change the dollar or percentage amount to be withheld or change your fund allocation. You may stop your contributions at any time.

## *What information is needed to use Employee Express?*

You will need your social security number (SSN) and Employee Express personal Identification number (PIN).

## *How do I get a personal identification number?*

PINs are mailed to new employees by the Office of Personnel Management in Macon, Ga., (OPM-Macon) within four weeks after the employee begins work. If you lose your PIN, a replacement can be obtained by calling the OPM-Macon help desk at 912-757-3030 and choosing the PIN option. For security reasons, the help desk will not issue and mail a new PIN to any other address than the official one on file. Therefore, please ensure that your servicing personnel-payroll office has your current mailing address on file.

## *How safe is the system?*

The unique combination of SSN, PIN, agency-specific information and the requirement of a 128-bit encrypted browser needed to access Employee Express makes it as secure as using an ATM.

## *Is there any assistance available when using Employee Express?*

Assistance is just a phone call away. The OPM-Macon help desk provides assistance Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST. At other times, a message may be left, and a member of the help desk staff will return your call. ♦

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Please send your comments and suggestions or a story that you would like to appear in *CounterParts* via phone or electronic mail to—

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